

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:** Jana McGee, Rebecca Swanson, Joe Kielar, Molly O'Donnell, Gwen White, Teddie Mower, Andrea Jobe, Stephanie Richards

**Regrets:** Bill Brown, Jeff Jewel, Dave Rollo,

**Staff:** Jacqui Bauer

**Public comment:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** The April and May minutes were approved unanimously. Jacqui will correct the members listed in the May minutes.

**Announcements**

Andrea mentioned that she will step down in her position coordinating the Middle Way House rooftop gardens. They are seeking interested individuals to take over this position.

Middle Way House also has a soon-to-be-announced partnership to supply a local café with lavender, and also working on a butterfly project for the kids at the shelter.

The IN Hemp Industries Association is focusing on changing regulations on hemp in Indiana. They will have an event on June 12. See [INHIA.org](http://INHIA.org) for more information.

Since Andrea will be stepping down, we need a new representative for the Environmental Commission. Great job Andrea!

Related to the Energy Challenge – Molly attended the Blooming Neighborhoods Celebration and has scheduled appointments in all neighborhoods that were present. If anyone is in a neighborhood or congregation that isn't yet involved in Earth Care and/or the Energy Challenge, please help get them connected.

\*Blue Ridge and Gentry Estates both have yard sales this weekend so the EnergyMobile could attend.

**Presentation on raising standards for smog prevention by Matt Skuya-Boss, Sierra Club**

The Sierra Club is seeking support from communities for tighter standards on smog, and are asking the mayor's office to sign on. BCOS could support the effort by talking to the mayor and/or making a recommendation that he sign on. The letter signed by mayors will eventually go to the White House to support the tightened EPA standards.

Matt noted that children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution.

**STAR Communities Update**

The Economy & Jobs section is 85-90% complete and will be ready to submit soon. The Built Environment section is in progress, with data needed from a number of departments

## **Report from the Chair**

### *Update on the Energy Challenge:*

The Education Committee is mostly on hiatus for the summer. A survey will go out to teachers as the next school year ramps up. They are looking at ways to recruit and engage Energy Champions in schools.

Molly noted that a North HS Chemistry teacher attended a committee meeting and is interested in getting more involved.

Molly has also been working with Terry Usrey's database management class to allow people to share their own accomplishments and energy data.

Project NEED could be a possible energy-related training we might consider bringing here.

## **Sustainability Coordinator Report**

*Energy Challenge update – see above*

*H2H update –* Volunteers are needed next week to help pick up lost-and-found items from the residence halls. Jacqui also asked for help in publicizing ways to donate items to students.

### **Committee reports:**

*ECPC:* Rebecca noted that recycling is still not required in new developments. The Environmental Commission is working on this; Jana could take this on if she becomes the liaison to the Environmental Commission in Andrea's place.

*EC:* Tom Micuda spoke at the last meeting, and Andrea took extensive notes on the planning and development process. If green aspects are not included in the current code, the city cannot require these types of improvements. The city will be revising the unified development ordinance in the next couple of years, so the community could advocate for additional requirements.

The EC also continues to work on the Climate Action Plan, which is now called the Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP) to reflect that the focus of the plan is now broader as well.

*Bring Your Bag Bloomington:* Andrea drafted a support letter that BCOS could sign onto to support the proposed plastic bag ban. The Center for Sustainable Living committee that has been working on this has put a lot of thought into the ordinance and are hopeful that it will pass council.

The commission voted unanimously to sign the letter of support. Andrea will make a couple of small tweaks and then submit it for signature.

### **New Business:**

No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.